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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 6 July 2017

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2017/30)*]

2017/18. Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and development, and which requires the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes measures to prevent it, to prosecute and punish the traffickers and to protect the victims, as well as a criminal justice response commensurate to the serious nature of the offence,

Recalling that trafficking in persons impairs the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international assessment and response and genuine multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for its eradication,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, investigate and punish the perpetrators and protect and assist the victims thereof, and that not doing so impairs the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of those victims,

Recalling all relevant United Nations resolutions and recent special meetings on trafficking in persons held by the main organs of the United Nations with a mandate relating to trafficking in persons that addressed various aspects of the crime,

Recognizing the significance of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

Reaffirming that the Global Plan of Action was developed:

(*a*) To promote universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

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United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] as well as other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons, and to reinforce the implementation of existing instruments against trafficking in persons,

(*b*) To help Member States to reinforce their political commitments and legal obligations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

(*c*) To promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter trafficking in persons,

(*d*) To promote a human rights-based and a gender- and age-sensitive approach to addressing all factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and to strengthening the criminal justice response, which are necessary to prevent trafficking in persons, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators,

(*e*) To raise awareness within the United Nations system and also among States and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society organizations and the international and national mass media, and the public at large,

(*f*) To foster cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and within various entities of the United Nations system, taking into account existing best practices and lessons learned,

Emphasizing the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons,

Recalling that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group was established to foster cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in combating human trafficking, to promote effective and efficient use of existing resources to increase tangible results in combating human trafficking in countries around the world using, to the extent possible, mechanisms already in place at the regional and national levels, and to share information, experiences and good practices relating to the activities of the partner agencies to combat trafficking with Governments, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies,

Recognizing that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, within its mandate, contributes to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Noting the activities of the working group of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group,[3]

Recognizing that the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, established in accordance with the Global Plan of Action, is aimed at providing victims of trafficking in persons with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and welcoming contributions made to the trust fund by States and all other relevant stakeholders,

Welcoming the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held from 13 to 15 May 2013, during its sixty-seventh session, to appraise the progress achieved in

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[2] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[3] See A/71/119.

the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which, inter alia, evinced strong political will to step up efforts against trafficking in persons,

Taking note of the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/192 of 18 December 2013, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on a four-year basis, starting at its seventy-second session,

Taking note also of the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/179 of 17 December 2015, to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the Assembly at its seventy-second session to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments,

Taking note further of the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/192, to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed every year beginning in 2014, and welcoming events held by Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and civil society at the international, regional and national levels to mark the World Day in order to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and the situation of the victims of this crime and for the promotion and protection of their rights,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] and recalling targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are relevant to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Reaffirming, in this regard, the shared commitments of Member States to take measures to eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and trafficking in persons, in the context of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Recalling the importance of eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, as well as of ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children, also in support of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

Recalling also the continued role of relevant regional, subregional and cross-regional mechanisms and initiatives in combating and eliminating all forms of trafficking in persons, including in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[5] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[5] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and also urges States parties to those instruments to implement them effectively;

2. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders mentioned in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[5] and invites the

[4] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[5] General Assembly resolution 64/293.

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by means of strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal;

3. *Invites* the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to consider developing recommendations for measures within its mandate that may also further the goals of the Global Plan of Action;

4. *Invites* all Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to continue to actively observe annually the World Day against Trafficking in Persons;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, looks forward to the next such report, to be produced by the Office in 2018, and requests the Office to continue, in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States, to collect, in a balanced, reliable and comprehensive manner, information on patterns, forms and flows of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels for use in those reports and to share best practices and lessons learned from various initiatives and mechanisms;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate, to continue to integrate the Global Plan of Action into its programmes and activities and to continue to provide, at the national and regional levels, technical assistance to countries, upon their request, aimed at strengthening their ability to effectively implement the Global Plan of Action, the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within the framework of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, to continue to increase the activities of the Group related to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and, to this end, to incorporate aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] relevant to preventing and combating trafficking in persons and to consider how future activities will be coordinated and how the duplication of efforts will be avoided;

8. *Calls upon* all members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, especially those that are not members of its working group, to participate actively in the work of the Group, including at the level of principals;

9. *Invites* all members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, if they have not yet done so, to designate a focal point responsible for efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons;

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as fund manager of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to encourage contributions by States and all other relevant stakeholders to the trust fund;

11. *Welcomes* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/287 of 4 May 2017 on the modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting of the

Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action, to be held on 27 and 28 September 2017, during the seventy-second session of the Assembly;

12. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the request made to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 to include a section on the implementation by the United Nations system of the Global Plan of Action, within already existing reporting obligations to the Assembly under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice.

40th plenary meeting
6 July 2017